

22

REASONS
AGAINST
IMPEACHING
THE
Late Ministry.^{Y. B. 18.}

BEING

A full ANSWER to all that has been
alleg'd for an IMPEACHMENT.

*Mercy and Truth preserve the King; and his Throne
is upholden by Mercy, Prov. 20. 28.*



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REASONS

FOR

THE

ACT

IN

RELATIVE TO THE





T H E
INTRODUCTION.



S much more difficult
 as it is to forgive, than
 to punish ; so much
 greater is the Hero
 who conquers himself, than he
 that only conquers his Enemies.
 We are told in Holy Scripture,
That he that is slow to Anger, is
A better

better than the Mighty; and he that ruleth his Spirit, than he that taketh a City. But the Words of Solomon have little Credit in the present Age; and what he gives out for a great Character, is look'd upon by some modern Politicians as mean and ignoble. Nay, some of them, whose Business it is to inculcate the Text just mention'd, expound away its Meaning in a Fit of Zeal, and suffer their Sons to call out for the Blood of their Country-men, and Fellow-subjects. The KING, in his most Gracious Speech, acknowledges *his Obligations to those who have distinguish'd themselves in Defence of the Protestant Succession*, in his illustrious House;

(iii)

House; but does not any where talk of punishing those that either did endeavour, or have been represented to have endeavour'd to defeat it. He is not for the Downfal of one half of his People, to exalt the other: His general Love for his Subjects, however divided, eminently appears in the latter Part of his Speech, which is too good not to be given in his own Words.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

‘ The Eyes of all *Europe* are up-
‘ on you, waiting the Issue of
‘ this first Session. Let no un-
A 2 ‘ happy

(iv)

‘ happy Divisions of Parties here
‘ at Home, divert you from per-
‘ suing the common Interest of
‘ your Country. Let no wicked
‘ Insinuations disquiet the Minds
‘ of my Subjects. The Establish’d
‘ Constitution in Church and
‘ State, shall be the Rule of my
‘ Government : The Happiness,
‘ Ease, and Prosperity of my
‘ People, shall be the chief Care
‘ of my Life. Those who assist
‘ me in carrying on these Mea-
‘ sures, I shall always esteem my
‘ best Friends ; and I doubt not,
‘ but that I shall be able, with
‘ your Assistance, to disappoint
‘ the Designs of those who would
‘ deprive me of that Blessing,
‘ which

(v)

‘ which I most value, the Affection of my People.

This Clemency of his Majesty, makes me hope, that all the wicked Purposes of bloody - minded Men will be defeated ; and that it will not be possible to perswade him to begin his Reign with Cruelty. If all that is alledg’d against the last Ministry, was true ; if every one that is call’d a Betrayer of his Country, could actually be prov’d a Traytor, deserv’d Death by the Laws of the Land, and the Law of Nations, yet, even in such a Case, it would be more advisable to overlook, than to *Impeach*.

Tho’

Tho' it is absolutely necessary that such Men should suffer, who conspire against the Life of their Prince, yet the Execution of the vilest Traytors, if they are of noble Extraction, may (on account of its Consequences) be look'd upon as a Misfortune in any King's Reign.

How many *Williamites* were made by the Blood of the Duke of *Monmouth*, whom King *James* the Second so justly put to Death? How many *Jacobites* sprung up at sight of the Heads and Quarters of *Charnock*, and his Accomplices? How lavish soever the
English

(vii)

Engliſh are of their Blood in Battel, they hate to have it ſpill'd by Law. A common Thief can't be hang'd, but the Mob are ready to reſcue him ; and I queſtion whether any Man in *England* has more Enemies than the Hang-man ; no, not even the Dutcheſs of M-----

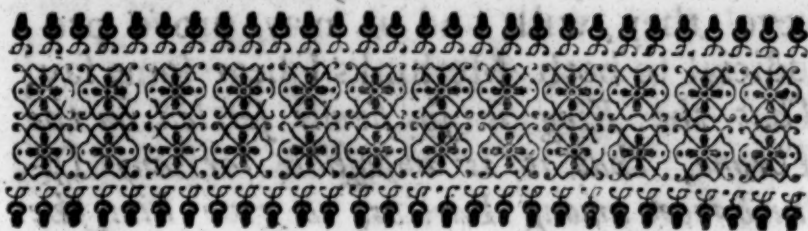
If what I have ſaid, ſhews it to be a dangerous Thing to bring to the Block, even ſuch as have deſerv'd to loſe their Heads, I hope the following Pages will ſhew, that whatever the Outcry is, the laſt Miniſtry do not deſerve to ſuffer ; and therefore, that nothing at preſent can be
of

(viii)

of a worfe Consequence, than an
Impeachment.



REASONS



REASONS

AGAINST AN

IMPEACHMENT.



THE great Concern I have for the Duration, as well as the Safety of the present Establishment, has drawn me into a Subject in which I am not very conversant. I have with some Impatience waited for *Reasons against an Impeachment*, but seeing none offer'd to the Publick, I am induc'd to submit these following.

They who would give Reasons for a Parliamentary Impeachment, should first consider whether it is consistent with the Safety of the King and Government ;
B
which,

which, if they do, with Submission, I believe they will find it may prove prejudicial to both. Methinks I hear some say, *That the King is so firmly settled on the Throne, that it is impossible for any Disturbance among Parties, to give him the least Shock.* I suppose this was insinuated into that unfortunate Prince King CHARLES the First; but he too late found, by his own, and his Country's Destruction, that rigorous Proceedings had so unrivett'd the Hearts of his People, that they could never again be fix'd. I am perswaded, that all true Lovers of both King and Country, will run no such Hazards; for if the King be levell'd at, woful Experience has shew'd us the Condition the State must be in.

Mr. Thomas Burnet, who first publish'd *Reasons for an Impeachment*, for his Excuse call'd himself *A young Man inflam'd with a rash Zeal*, (which I believe every impartial Reader is very sensible of) *against the late Ministry*, and therefore is more excusable than the Author of a Pamphlet entitl'd, *Reasons, without Passion, for an Impeachment.* If this very considerate Person can in cool Blood design the Destruction of so many, what will he do, were he in a Passion? If this is the boasted Moderation of the Party in Power, we shall soon

soon know what we have to trust to. But let me inform them, that a Sea of Blood, flowing from the Necks of *English* NOBILITY, will never cement, but may divide this Kingdom.

My good-natur'd Gentleman addresses himself to some Body, who has no Interest in the Welfare of our Nation, and so consequently the fairest Judge (by which he seems to intimate, that every Body knows our Constitution better than our selves) to decide this Controversy, ' Whether the Authors of ' a Peace (so unlike its Parent the War, in ' all its Features) ought to be call'd to an ' Account in the ensuing Parliament, or ' not. There are many Families who have had alternate Flaws in their Descents : It has been observ'd, that in four Generations, the second has been very unlike the first, but much resembled by the fourth ; as the third has been the Copy of the first. The Parent of our late long-winded War, was a short-winded Peace, hatch'd in the Reign of the late King *William*, of Glorious Memory, whose Grandson is thought to be troubled with the Distemper of his Progenitor, and by several dangerous Symptoms, will not (by the Opinion of Men of Judgment) be able

to continue long ; but in all Probability, will leave us a long-winded Offspring.

Indeed the late War must be own'd to have been very glorious ; I much wonder at the Impudence of those who say, that we have got nothing by it, when they may be so easily convinc'd, if they will but give themselves the small Trouble of going either to *Westminster*, or *Guild-Hall*, where they may see the Trophies of *French* Spoils, obtain'd in so small a Time as nine Years War ; an Equivalent for our *English* Millions. And if this will not satisfy them, our sincere Friends the *D——b* will, by shewing them the great Tract of Land they have got in an Enemy's Country, by *England's* Men and Money ; by which we have so engag'd them in our Interest, that it is impossible for them to serve us as they did the *Spaniards*, who endeavour'd, nay, did assist 'em, when a *French* Army stood at the Gates of *Amsterdam*. And now they would be content that we should secure to them the little Spot of Ground on which the *French* Dominions stand, as a Ballance of the Power of *Europe* ; and the great Generosity of the now *High* and *Mighty*, will resign the Honour of Victory to us, as being more than an Equivalent ; and I am sure every Body will think it ungrateful in us, if we don't endeavour to make them as powerful
by

by Land, as we have made them, and they now are by Sea.

‘ That there has been a most glorious and
 ‘ most surprizing War, carry’d on by the
 ‘ Confederates against *France*, for near nine
 ‘ Years successively, wherein almost every
 ‘ Day brought us Home fresh Tidings of
 ‘ some new Advantages, and in so long a
 ‘ Tract of Time, not one cloudy Day to
 ‘ obscure them, (there’s none I know of)
 ‘ so impudent as to deny ; and that the
 ‘ Peace that succeeded it, is exactly the
 ‘ Reverse.

What a great deal of Pains this Gentleman has taken, to prove, that Peace is the Reverse of War ! Believe me, Sir, I labour under the Misfortune of having the Impudence to deny, that the War has been successfully carry’d on for the Space of nine Years. I suppose this Gentleman was in *Flanders*, if he had Courage enough, and did not hear of the Losses we sustain’d in *Spain* ; or that he is some Foreigner lately come to *England*, and no Person has inform’d him, of the Damages we there receiv’d ; and if he will not believe me, my Lord G——ay will satisfy him. It was very reasonable that we should have the Tidings of some new Advantages, that we might know that our Supplies were not thrown away to no Purpose. Besides, I am
 confi-

confidently of the Opinion, that no Body who had the Succession at Heart, will rail at the Peace, since it has procur'd the quiet Accession of our Sovereign Lord King GEORGE to the Crown, of which God grant he may have a long and quiet Possession. Is it on this Account, that the Spirits of every true *Briton* should be rous'd, to demand the Heads of the Authors of our late Peace? And if any Thing unforeseen by us, but guess'd at by these great Discoverers, happen'd after its Conclusion, to the Disadvantage of our Trade, why did not *St—e* and *Ridpath*, the Eyes and Mouth of the *Whigs*, who made it their Business to pick Holes in it, find this Flaw, which may be pardon'd by one of the great Benefits we have receiv'd from it, namely this present Establishment.?

To decide the Question before us, whether the Authors of the Peace shall be impeach'd in the ensuing Parliament, or not, our Author has laid down two terrible Charges, as he calls them, *viz.* ' The
' *Tories* said, that the *Whigs* at *Gertruy-*
' *denberg* might have had ample Conces-
' sions that none but a People who *de-*
' *lighted in War*, and were resolv'd to
' build their Fortunes on the Ruin of
' their Country, would have rejected ;
' together with some *Immuendo's* of setting
' up

‘ up a General for Life, and introducing
 ‘ Forty Eight again among us.

‘ The *Whigs* branded the *Tories* with
 ‘ endeavouring to put an End to the most
 ‘ glorious War that ever the Sun shone
 ‘ on, (that of *Joshua* not excepted) be-
 ‘ fore the common Enemy (the Author of
 ‘ it) was made to bear the Charge, and
 ‘ brought so low, that the least of the Con-
 ‘ federates need not fear him ; in order to
 ‘ bring in Popery and Tyranny upon us,
 ‘ and undo in a Moment, what the Nati-
 ‘ on, at the Expence of much Blood and
 ‘ Treasure, had been so long labouring to
 ‘ obtain

Then saying little to the Charge of the
Tories, he takes all the Pains he can to
 make good that of the *Whigs*.

It was very ridiculous to appoint a Ge-
 neral, then at the Head of an Army, to treat
 for Peace, who had a Prospect and a Desire
 of getting by the War, tho’ at his Nations
 Expence ; and that to enrich himself, and
 impoverish us, was his Design, will appear by
 his putting his Millions, which he got by the
 War, and secret Services, into the Banks
 of his darling *H——nd*. He has nothing in
England, but the bountiful Presents of a
 liberal QUEEN, which he could not
 with ease carry away ; and I can assure
 you he never brought any Thing hither.

And

And his setting up for General for Life, was too far canvass'd, to be barely an *Innuendo*.

' The *Tories* were branded with endeavouring to put an End to the late glorious War, in order to bring in Popery and Tyranny.

I will leave it to any reasonable Person to judge whether by making the late Peace, there was any apparent Danger of introducing Popery, or the Pretender, which were only to be brought in by the Assistance of a *French* Power ; the late Alliance has broke all their Measures, and I should think, remov'd our causeless Fears.

By the glorious War, we have not only gain'd many fortify'd Towns in *Flanders*, which our Guardians the *D—ch* have under their Tuition, but have rais'd Fortifications in our own Country. At *Woodstock* you may see a *Bleinheim* Castle ; and since I have mention'd that magnificent Pile, I can but take Notice of the finest Bridge *England* can shew, which cost but four-score thousand Pounds, for a huge River of about six Foot wide, to run under. I wonder why the *Tories* endeavour'd to put an End to such a glorious War, whose Burthen has not quite sunk the landed Interest, which they ought to have maintain'd to
half

the last Drop of their political Blood ; not half of them have sold their Estates : The *Whigs* would have lent them Money as long as there were any Tenements to mortgage, and have kept their Heads above Water ; they should have took Examples from the Ancients, have thrown their whole Fortune into the publick Stock, and even have blotted out the Name of their Family, to maintain a War for the Benefit of our *Hogan-mogan* Friends. For whom could they do it better ? What can be a greater Honour, than to be stil'd the Friends of the *D——ch* ? Is it not a great Satisfaction for a decay'd Gentleman, to hear himself pitty'd by the *Whigs* ; to hear them say one to the other, Don't you see that Fellow in Rags ? He is a very honest Man, one of those who sacrific'd his Fortune and Family to the Interest of the *D——ch* ; and the Reason why no Body assists him, is, because good Actions are their own Reward. Will not this be a sufficient Recompence for those fordid Acres that have been so generously bestow'd ? Will not this exalt his Fame to the Level of that brave *Roman's*, who left the Plough to fight for his Country, and after his Victories, return'd again to his Farm ?

But to return to our Author, ' I think the
' ensuing Parliament ought to make all the
' speedy Inquisition (imaginable) into this
' Affair ; nay, to go upon it the first Thing
' they do. ' C With

With Submission, Sir, it is thought very presumptuous to prescribe to Parliaments, and is almost to be rank'd with *Tom Burnet's* perverting the gracious Intentions of his Majesty's Proclamation, for calling a new Parliament, to his own scandalous Meanings. Had not the present Ministry favour'd his Youth, he must either have flown to *Holland*, for that Refuge his Father enjoy'd, or been brought to publick Justice, as his Deserts requir'd. We may see the Clemency of his present Majesty, in pardoning this Offender; for less Crimes than these, have brought many to be pillory'd, fin'd, imprison'd, nay, hang'd; for if his Case be fairly stated, his Indictment ought to run thus, *That Thomas Burnet did feloniously pervert the Meaning of our Proclamation, &c. in order to alienate the Hearts of our loving Subjects, and to make our Reign uneasy to us; and who knows but in a little Time, if what he designs, does happen, he may be indicted, for aiding, abetting, assisting, and comforting the present M——y, in the Murder of so many Noblemen?* Which from his own Mouth, may be prov'd *Malice prepense*; and I hope the Parliament will be equally indulgent to our Author.

The Danger the State lies under, 'till the late Ministry *be impeach'd*, and receive
con-

condign Punishment, (as our Author calls it) no Body can perceive ; unless it be thought that the present M——y cannot continue long without the Destruction of those of the last, to prevent their succeeding them at any Time. If they must be Impeach'd, 'tis very probable that the Cause why the Managers should demand their Heads, will be this, *viz. That the Men lately in Power (contrary to the Principles of the Party now in Play) did passively obey her late Majesty, whose Memory, with that of the Murder of King Charles the First, is decreed to be blotted out of the Kalender.* ' For they did nothing but what the Parliament advis'd, and approv'd of in the strongest Manner ; the QUEEN, pursuant to their Advice commanded, and the *Ministry* were the Servants of both in transacting ; which if they can be call'd to Account for, then no human Power can protect a *British* Subject, in the Service of a *British* Nation.

Our Author is very much mistaken, if he thinks that the present Ministry will be thought to have sided with the last, if they don't call them to an Account for Errors by them committed in Government. There are many Ways by which (no doubt) they will give evident Proofs to the contrary, without taking off so many Heads.

He grievously complains, that the Authors of the late Peace have bound us *Hand and Foot*, and deliver'd us into the Power of our Enemies ; (which I am confident he will never undertake to prove) and for that Reason he would have them ty'd *Neck and Heels*, and deliver'd to publick Justice (as he calls it) *in order to satisfy the late Allies, for the most barbarous and inhuman Breach of Faith, that ever any Nation was guilty of.* To shew how false this Charge is, we all know that her Majesty assur'd her Allies, *She would make no Peace, but such an one wherein they should all find their Advantages*, which our Divisions at Home obstructed ; and it was only in the Emperor's Power to take Care of the *Catalans*, since they would only submit to him.

Now, to find a Nation, whose Breach of Faith has exceeded that of ours, we need go no farther than *Spain*, where some Natives will inform us, how generously they assisted the *States*, which as scandalously left them in the Lurch ; and after they had drawn them into an unnecessary War, made a separate Peace. These are the very Allies we have so basely treated ; and they, who are more willing to be impos'd upon by the *D——ch*, than by the *F——ch*, will own, that it was not for
the

the Interest of the former to make a Peace, if they could have engag'd us longer in a War; which would have still enrich'd 'em, (whether our Arms had been Victorious or not) by the great Sums of Money which were sent out of *England* to maintain it, and were spent amongst them; none of which were ever brought hither again, except ten or twelve hundred thousand Pounds, which a few private Men very unaccountably got under the Duke of *Mal—gb.*

Dear *Jew*, without Passion, what do you mean by telling us of the old *Mosaical Law, of an Eye for an Eye, and a Tooth for a Tooth?* For both the present Ministry, and Parliament, I can assure you, are *Christians*. Now, we may see what sort of Men they are, who advise the present Ministry to enter upon such dangerous Enterprizes; Men, to whom all Countries and Nations are alike, who will settle in that wherein they have the greatest Probability of making Advantages, and paying no Taxes: Such Men trouble the Government; they, instead of applying Remedies to heal the Wounds the State has receiv'd by Parties, exasperate our Divisions; but I can assure them, that the Nation has no need of any Physician, who prescribes *Bleeding* at this dan

dangerous Conjunction, when our Constitution is already brought so low.

Our Author is very much concern'd to know why the *Tories* would put an End to the late War. Does he not see, that the whole Weight of it did lie very heavy on the Landed Men, while the money'd Men went Scot-free? The former were oblig'd to pay to the utmost, whilst the latter paid little or nothing. Some who were worth a hundred thousand Pounds, were (not without some grumbling) tax'd for only two thousand. No wonder these Men felt nothing of the Burthen of the War.

These are very good Reasons why the *Tories* made a Peace: If this very considerate Gentleman will put us in a way to lay aside the Peace, without endangering the Credit of the Nation, and find out a Supply to maintain a War, without loading the Land and the Poor, I believe every Body would come into such Measures; but since we have made a Peace, (may be not altogether so advantageous as we might have expected) such as it is, we ought to make the best of it, and perform every Article; which, if the King of *France* should not, I am certain no Body will be against entering into a War on such just and warrantable Grounds. Then we shall see what large Sums of Money, those who
rail'd

rail'd at Peace, will lay out in War : What will the poor Duke of *Mal——gh*, (so impoverish'd by the late War) give towards carrying on another ? Will he generously throw in his Pay ; give up his Perquisites for that Purpose, and venture starving ? A Nobleman that could lay out thirty thousand Pounds in Elections, will certainly bestow double that Money to help to pull down the *French King*.

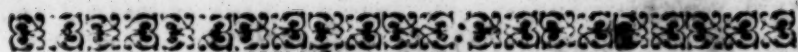
But least these Expectations should fail us, let us lay down some way to raise a Supply, which may not fall hard upon Gentlemen of small Estates, and the Poor, but be equally shar'd amongst the Rich. Suppose then, that every Nobleman, or Gentleman, that keeps a Coach, and a Pair of Horses, should pay but ten Pounds a Year, and for every Pair more five Pounds ; that is, they who keep four, fifteen ; and they who keep six, twenty Pounds : For every riding Horse two Pounds ; for it may be taken for granted, that they who keep Coaches, or Horses, can easily spare the above-mention'd Sums. And I don't see that it would be any Grievance, if every Hackney Coach (out of the hundred and eighty Pounds they certainly get every Year) should pay two Pounds, since they keep a Man to drive, who would be useful in the Army. And if they who brew
(above

(above a Bushel of Malt) for their own Family, and so consequently lessen the Excise, should pay but twenty Shillings a Year, I will maintain that a far greater Supply (then six Shillings in the Pound would raise) may be by these Means gather'd, and no Body feel the Weight. We may this way carry on a glorious War, and let the Land lie fallow to gain new Strength. And if after this, a *Ryswick* Peace should be struck up; when its short Date is expir'd, the Landed Men having breath'd, may take their Turn, and carry on the next War.

This is what I thought fit to urge upon this Subject, because I would not have the Counsel of violent and blood-thirsty Men prevail; of Men that would ruin the present Ministry, by putting them upon such Methods as must inflame our Divisions more and more, and perhaps introduce a Civil War. For it is the Misfortune of the best Kings to be blam'd, for the Miscarriages of their Ministers, tho' at the same Time they have nothing more at Heart than the Good of their Subjects. And as I wish his present Majesty King GEORGE, long to Live and Reign, to have the Hearts of all his People, I should be sorry that the Mismanagement of those at the Helm of Affairs, should alienate any one from him, or make any *Tory* become a *Jacobite*.

F I N I S.

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